

What is claimed is:

1. An airbag retention collar for attaching an airbag cushion in an airbag module assembly, the airbag module assembly including a module canister and a side discharge inflator device, the retention collar comprising:

a bent plate adapted to overlie the side discharge inflator device;

a first mounting flange disposed at a first end of the bent plate and a second mounting flange disposed at a second end of the bent plate opposite the first end, the first and second mounting flanges each extending at an angle from the bent plate;

a diffuser flange extending from the bent plate; and

a plate opening in the bent plate, the plate opening disposed between the diffuser flange and the first mounting flange, wherein the plate opening is adapted to receive an inflator diffuser of the inflator device and the inflator diffuser extends through the plate opening to be disposed between the diffuser flange and the first mounting flange.

2. The airbag retention collar according to claim 1 additionally comprising a deflection member disposed over the plate opening.

3. The airbag retention collar according to claim 2 wherein the deflection member comprises a first deflection member end and a second deflection

member end opposite the first deflection member end, the deflection member connected to the diffuser flange at the first deflection member end and connected to the first mounting flange at the second deflection member end.

4. The airbag retention collar according to claim 1 wherein the side discharge inflator device includes a substantially cylindrical body and the bent plate is a curved plate.

5. The airbag retention collar according to claim 1 wherein the diffuser flange is cut out of the bent plate and bent outwards.

6. The airbag retention collar according to claim 1 wherein the first mounting flange extends in a first plane and the second mounting flange extends in a second plane, wherein the first plane is substantially perpendicular to the second plane.

7. The airbag retention collar according to claim 6 wherein the diffuser flange extends from the bent plate substantially parallel to the first mounting flange.

8. The airbag retention collar according to claim 1 wherein one of the first and second mounting flanges comprises at least one flange attachment tab, each of the at least one flange attachment tab adapted to extend through a corresponding slit opening in the module canister.

9. The airbag retention collar according to claim 1 wherein the module canister includes a portion disposed between the bent plate and the side discharge inflator device.

10. An airbag module assembly for an inflatable restraint device system, comprising:

a module canister defining a canister chamber, the module canister including a canister base and spaced first and second sidewalls and first and second endwalls connected to the canister base, the module canister also including a pocket defining a pocket volume disposed on an outer side of the module canister opposite the canister chamber and adapted to receive an inflator device, the pocket having a pocket opening connecting the pocket volume and the canister chamber;

a side discharge inflator device disposed at least partially within the pocket volume, the inflator device including a body and an inflator diffuser connected to the body, wherein the inflator diffuser extends through the pocket opening into the canister chamber;

an airbag retention collar connected to the canister within the canister chamber, the airbag retention collar including:

a bent plate overlying the pocket;

a first mounting flange extending at an angle from the bent plate at a first end of the bent plate and adjacent the first side wall;

a second mounting flange extending at an angle from the bent plate at a second end of the bent plate opposite the first end and adjacent the canister base;

a diffuser flange extending from the bent plate; and

a plate opening in the bent plate, the plate opening disposed between the diffuser flange and the first mounting flange, wherein the plate opening is aligned with the pocket opening and the inflator diffuser extends through the pocket opening and is disposed between the diffuser flange and the first mounting flange; and

an inflatable airbag cushion connected to the airbag retention collar, the inflatable airbag cushion in a static state disposed in the canister chamber.

11. The airbag module assembly according to claim 10 wherein a portion of the inflatable airbag cushion is disposed between the airbag retention collar and the module canister.

12. The airbag module assembly according to claim 10 wherein the inflatable airbag cushion comprises a cushion opening and the inflator diffuser extends through the cushion opening.

13. The airbag module assembly according to claim 12 additionally comprising a deflection member disposed over the inflator diffuser, the deflection member including a first deflection member end and a second deflection member end opposite the first deflection member end, the deflection member connected to the diffuser flange at the first deflection member end and connected to the first mounting flange at the second deflection member end.

14. The airbag module assembly according to claim 10 wherein one of the first and second mounting flanges comprises at least one flange attachment tab, each of the at least one flange attachment tab adapted to extend through a corresponding slit opening in one of the first sidewall and the canister base.

15. The airbag module assembly according to claim 10 additionally comprising an inflator bracket connected to an outer surface of the module canister and disposed over at least a portion of the inflator device.

16. The airbag module assembly according to claim 15 wherein a first arm of the inflator bracket is connected to the first mounting flange through the module canister first side wall and a second arm of the inflator bracket is connected to the second mounting flange through the module canister base.

17. The airbag module assembly according to claim 16 wherein the inflator bracket first arm includes a first bracket connector opening disposed in alignment with a corresponding first collar connector opening of the first mounting flange and the inflator bracket second arm includes a second bracket connector opening disposed in alignment with a corresponding second collar connector opening of the second mounting flange.

18. The airbag module assembly according to claim 15 wherein the inflator bracket comprises a first arm adjacent the first side wall and a second arm adjacent the canister base, wherein one of the first arm and the second arm comprises at least one bracket attachment tab, each of the at least one bracket attachment tab adapted to extend through a corresponding slit opening in one of the first side wall and the canister base.

19. The airbag module assembly according to claim 18 wherein one of the first and second mounting flanges comprises at least one flange

attachment tab, each of the at least one flange attachment tab adapted to extend through a corresponding slit opening in one of the first side wall and the canister base.

20. The airbag module assembly according to claim 19 wherein the first mounting flange comprises the at least one flange attachment tab, the first arm of the inflator bracket comprises the at least one bracket attachment tab, each of the at least one flange attachment tab and each of the at least one bracket attachment tab extends through a corresponding slit opening in the first sidewall, and the second arm of the inflator bracket is connected to the second mounting flange through the canister base.

21. The airbag module assembly according to claim 19 wherein the first mounting flange comprises two flange attachment tabs, the first arm of the inflator bracket comprises two bracket attachment tabs, and the first sidewall comprises four slit openings.

22. The airbag module assembly according to claim 10 wherein the pocket comprises a bent wall portion connected to two opposing end portions, the bent wall portion and the end portions forming the pocket volume for receiving the side discharge inflator device.

23. The inflatable restraint device according to claim 10 wherein the side discharge inflator device includes a substantially cylindrical body and the bent plate is a curved plate.

24. The airbag module assembly according to claim 23 wherein the pocket comprises a curved wall portion connected to two opposing end portions, the curved wall portion and the end portions forming the pocket volume for receiving the substantially cylindrical side discharge inflator device body.

25. The airbag module assembly according to claim 23 wherein the inflator diffuser is centrally disposed on a side of the inflator device body.

26. The airbag module assembly according to claim 10 wherein the diffuser flange extends from the bent plate substantially parallel to the first mounting flange.